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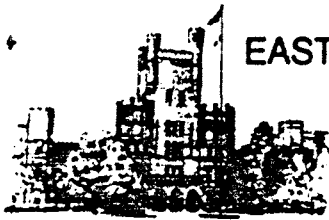
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

March 15, 1984

Hometown

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Steve Roepke, of R.R. #3, Altamont, is one of three Eastern Illinois University students getting work experience in the chemistry field while still in school, thanks to a cooperative education program offered by the Chemistry Department.

Roepke, a junior, is currently employed by the Department of Nuclear Safety in Springfield.

Dr. John Marquart, coordinator of the program, said students are taking responsible positions in major companies. He added that students are earning college credit for their work as well as being paid by the cooperating company.

Credit is earned at the rate of one per month of working full time, up to a maximum of 15 credits. Students are required to spend at least two semesters on the job to receive credit, Marquart said.

The program has had students working in the various areas of chemistry for companies from many states, including New York, Marquart said. He added he is very pleased with the results from the program's first two years.

Participants come back to Eastern after the work experience as better students, Marquart said. He also said that in many instances a cooperating company will hire a student following graduation if the student performed well during the cooperative program.

Evaluation is done by the student filing a monthly report and their supervisor at the company submitting an evaluation sheet on the student's work.

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Chemistry Students

Add 1

Eligibility requirements for the program include a 2.5 grade point average both overall and within the chemistry, physics and mathematics areas. Students must also have completed the sophomore year or have taken two semesters of organic chemistry courses and gain permission of the department chairperson.

Marquart said the program may not be right for all students, since it generally delays graduation, but added the work experience gained is invaluable. "The students see what chemistry is used for in the real world," he said.